

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were pending and under consideration.

An amendment was filed on September 4, 2003 in response to the Office Action of June 4, 2003. This is a supplemental amendment to the amendment filed on September 4, 2003.

Independent claims 1 and 8 have been cancelled and replaced by new independent claims 17 and 18. Claims 2-5, 7, 9-14, and 16 have been amended.

Independent claims 17 and 18 recite a gel electrolyte comprising: a nonaqueous electrolyte solution obtained by dissolving electrolyte salt containing Li in a nonaqueous solvent, and a matrix polymer prepared by polymerizing monomer, the monomers comprising: a vinylidene fluoride; a hexafluoropropylene; and a carboxyl moiety containing monomer, wherein the carboxyl moiety containing monomer is selected from ester and carboxylic acid anhydride groups.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Katsurao nor Kuzuro teach a matrix polymer prepared by polymerizing a vinylidene fluoride, a hexafluoropropylene and a carboxyl moiety containing monomer. Katsurao discloses a solid polymer electrolyte formed from a crosslinked vinylidene fluoride copolymer. Kuzuro discloses a polymer electrolyte by providing a polymer composition formed of a reacting vinylidene fluoride-based polymer and a carboxyl group and/or an epoxy group, and at least one vinyl group. (Kuzuro abstract). None of the cited references disclose or even suggest a matrix polymer prepared by polymerizing a vinylidene fluoride, a hexafluoropropylene and a carboxyl moiety containing monomer.. (Spec. page 11) Thus, Katsurao and Kuzuro do not anticipate claims 1 and 8 of the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claimed invention is not anticipated by the applied references as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 2-5, 7, 9-14 and 16 all depend directly from claims 17 and 18 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 8 are allowable.

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Applicants respectfully submit these rejections have been overcome and request that they be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the pending claims 2-5, 7, 9-14 and 16-18 are patentable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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